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**TIM RYAN**  
**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**13TH DISTRICT, OHIO**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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CHAIRMAN

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Tai,

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to putting together a strategic plan to tackle the complex trade challenges our nation faces today with China. As you continue this important work, I would like to extend a formal invitation for you to visit the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Ohio to see firsthand how bad trade deals with China have harmed communities like mine in states like Ohio and across the country.

For nearly 100 years, Northeast Ohio's "Steel Valley" and the "Rubber Capital" were valued national manufacturing centers. During that time our region thrived, attracting workers and small businesses that funneled money into our community. Beginning in the 1970s, our local industry was slowly lost to foreign imports. It hollowed out the middle class and many people lost well-paying union jobs. When plants are closed and friends and family lose a reliable source of income, it has a profound rippling effect that impacts every part of our community.

All workers ask for is a level playing field so they can compete on a global scale. Communities like mine are well positioned to become a leader as we look to revitalize domestic manufacturing in newer areas such as lithium/ion battery manufacturing and solar, and so I'm thankful that your vision for a strategic trade plan places a strong emphasis on reinvesting back into domestic manufacturing and job training. This will play a key role in regaining U.S. competitiveness against China.

But I remain concerned that this alone will not suffice in holding China accountable for persistent harmful trade practices. As we have seen, China will continue to find ways around every trade remedy in the book, so why haven't we shifted our strategy to meet this unchanging reality? As you continue this important work, I stand ready to partner with you so we can finally level the playing field for American workers and protect our economic interests.

I look forward to your response and thank you again for your hard work on these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress